

**HUNTERS FLY FAR & HIGH FOR MIGRATORY BIRDS**

EUROPEAN HUNTERS REPRESENTED AT THE 5TH MEETING OF THE PARTIES (MOP 5) TO

THE AFRICAN‐EURASIAN MIGRATORY WATERBIRD AGREEMENT (AEWA)

**14 May 2012 -** The 5th Meeting of the Parties (MOP 5) to the African‐Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) will take place 14‐18 May, in La Rochelle, France. More than 200 representatives, Government officials, NGOs and relevant experts will come together to discuss urgent conservation responses needed to address the many threats facing migratory waterbirds in the African‐Eurasian region today. FACE, the representative Association for European hunters is there to share their expertise. FACE’s experts join other conservationists to best address the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats. The intergovernmental meeting is directly preceded by the annual **World Migratory Bird Day** on 12‐13 May.

AEWA is an international treaty that covers over 250 species of birds ecologically dependent on wetlands for at least part of their annual cycle, including many important game species. Unlike many other agreements AEWA has a built-in recognition of the need for conservation, including the sustainable use of migratory species and for this reason it remains a very important agreement for European hunters to be involved in managing shared populations of migratory birds.

This has never been more relevant, as ***Migratory waterbirds and people – sharing wetlands*** is the theme of AEWA MOP5. Indeed, hunters in Europe have long been involved with the positive management and monitoring of migrating waterbirds – from the local level right through to multilateral international agreements such as AEWA. The World Migratory Bird Day celebrations provide the opportunity to shine the spotlight on some of the activities undertaken, such as the UK’s Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust **Woodcock Watch** – an exciting project that allows you to track 12 woodcock as they migrate from their British winter homes across Europe into Russia and their breeding grounds.

At the policy level, FACE (representing Europe’s hunters) have been providing expertise and technical insight since the start. FACE Members were integral in the establishment of the **African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement** (AEWA) in the 1990s. FACE is an Observer to the AEWA Technical Committee and offers detailed expertise on a range of issues, including lead shot, the management of species such as **Lesser White-fronted Goose** (*Anser erythropus)*,and the **Pink Footed Goose** (*Anser brachyrhynchus*),amongst others**.** FACE has also been active in promoting AEWA in **Russia** and **Turkey** who are not yet Parties to the Agreement as these countries are very important range states for many migratory birds.

This extensive involvement in the conservation of migratory birds reflects the sincere commitment hunters make to safeguard the future of these species, and is demonstrated across Europe, every day. World Migratory Bird Day encapsulates this in a global celebration, and FACE has announced the **launch of The Information Portal of Huntable Species in Europe this September**. This much-anticipated portal will allow a greater understanding of our species and provide a new tool for waterfowl research as a user-friendly, searchable database for information on existing bag data collection schemes throughout the EU.

**\*\*\*ENDS\*\*\***

**NOTES TO EDITORS:**

**FACE** is the European Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation.

Established in 1977, FACE represents the interests of Europe’s **7 million hunters** as an international non-profit-making nongovernmental organization (NGO).

FACE is made up of its **Members**: **national hunters’ associations** from **38 European countries** including the EU-27. FACE also has 4 Associate Members and has its Secretariat in Brussels.

FACE upholds the principle of sustainable use, has been a member of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) since 1987, and more recently of Wetlands International. FACE works with its partners on a range of hunting-related issues, from international conservation agreements to local implementations with the aim of sustaining hunting across Europe. [www.face.eu](http://www.face.eu)

**FACE & BIRDS:** FACEwas formally founded in 1977 as a result of national hunting associations engaging with the process which resulted in the adoption in 1979 of the EU Birds Directive. Since those early days, FACE has remained very close to its roots by continuing to work on issues related to birds and in particular migratory birds. This work has continued to be carried out within the framework of the EU Birds Directive but also as part of international agreements such as the Bern Convention and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS).

USEFUL LINKS

**AEWA, Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds** [www.unep-aewa.org](http://www.unep-aewa.org)

**World Migratory Bird Day** [www.worldmigratorybirdday.org](http://www.worldmigratorybirdday.org)

**Woodcock Watch** [www.woodcockwatch.com](http://www.woodcockwatch.com)

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, INTERVIEWS, QUOTES, PLEASE CONTACT:**

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